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March 06, 2001

FDA
Dockets Management Branch
HFA-305
5630 Fishers Lane Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Reference Docket No. 00D-1598
GMO guidelines

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the new guidelines on bio-engineered foods stop short of requiring the safety testing or mandatory labeling that many consumer groups advocate. Stop short of? Then what guidelines are there? It was so upsetting to me to read that I may not be able to choose the source of the food I buy, the quality of the food I buy, even the genetic consistency of the food I buy and feed my family. How can this be?

This is the United States of America, land of safety testing. Where is the safety testing that proves to me that genetically engineered foods are safe? How do we know that 10 or 20 years down the road these genetically engineered foods won't be found to be causing the diseases we will have created by then? Who was it that allowed DDT to be legally used in this country until it was proven in usage to be deadly to humans? Are we making the same mistake with GMO foods?

I am asking, as a concerned and aware citizen and mother, that GMO foods not only be labeled, but outlawed. As far as I'm concerned, Europe has the right idea: NO GMO FOODS ALLOWED!!

I am so angry that you are trying to push this ruling through before the American public has even been aware that you are making one. We buy organic food because we believe that it is better quality and healthier for our families and environment. How dare you decide that I won't get to choose "GMO free" as a criteria for the food I buy? How dare you decide that foods with GMO ingredients are "substantially the same food". I believe that GMO foods are not only inferior, they

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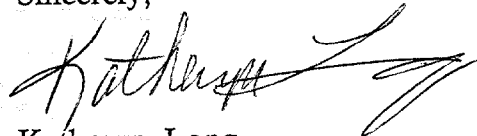
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are to be feared and when you mess with my food supply, you are getting too close to the health and well-being of my family. Keep your regulations off my food supply.

We don't have the right to force Europe to buy our GMO products. You don't have the right to force Americans to buy our GMO products. The organic industry grew not out of support from corporate america, agri-buisness, or government; it grew because of the support of everyday people with families who cared what they put into their family's mouths. Let us keep feeding our children the best food we can—not something engineered in a lab. I don't give my kids pharmaceuticals as medicines, why would I give them to them as food?

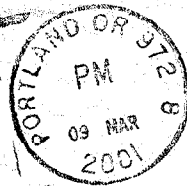
Please. Keep GMO foods out of my grocery store. Keep labels intact so I know what I am buying. It is my choice to make. Not yours. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katheryn Long', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katheryn Long

Stylist, Gardener, Hopeful Mother, Voter



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